

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RABAT 06679 141013Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 /097 W
----- 122675 /13

R 140905Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 532
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 6679

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MO FR PFOR
SUBJECT: KING HASSAN'S NOV. 22-25 VISIT TO FRANCE

REF: A) RABAT 6266, B) RABAT 6352, C) RABAT 6394, D) PARIS 35602

1. SUMMARY: HASSAN'S VISIT TO FRANCE REFLECTED THE KING'S NEW CONFIDENCE AND HIS IMAGE OF HIMSELF AND MOROCCO AS PROMINENT IN VARIOUS STRATEGIC AXES. A LARGE PLUS FOR THE KING INTERNALLY, THE TRIP ALSO PRESAGES OTHER TRAVELS ABROAD. HASSAN TACTFULLY AVOIDED EMBARRASSING THE FRENCH ON THE SAHARA ISSUE WHILE TWEAKING THE ALGERIANS. CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENTS, WHILE KEPT VAGUE, APPEAR TO ENTAIL FRENCH COOPERATION IN VARIOUS MOROCCAN ECONOMIC PROJECTS, INCLUDING INTEREST IN MOROCCO'S NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT PLANS. FOR THE US, THE VISIT MARKED A FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF MOROCCAN TIES WITH THE WEST. ENHANCED MOROCCAN-FRENCH RELATIONS ARE, IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, ENTIRELY COMPATIBLE WITH AND COMPLEMENTARY TO CURRENT EXCELLENT US-MOROCCAN TIES. END SUMMARY

2. WHAT SEEMED TO BE THE LAST WORD IN THE LOCAL PRESS'S LONG PREOCCUPATION WITH THE KING'S VISIT APPEARED IN A DEC. 2 SEMI-OFFICIAL LE MATIN EDITORIAL. PUBLISHER AHMED ALAOUI CALLED THE VISIT "ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT" IN THE HISTORY OF THE TWO COUNTRIES' BILATERAL AND "INTERNATIONAL" RELATIONS. HENCEFORTH, ALAOUI CALIMED, FRANCE'S ARAB, MAGHREB AND AFRICAN POLICIES MUST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RABAT 06679 141013Z

NECESSARILY PASS THROUGH MOROCCO, AND LIKEWISE MOROCCO'S

EUROPEAN POLICY MUST PASS THROUGH FRANCE.

3. HYPERBOLE ALWAYS ABOUNDS DURING SUCH OCCASIONS, BUT THE STATEMENT SAYS MUCH ABOUT THE KING'S IMAGE OF HIMSELF AND THE ROLE HE THINKS MOROCCO CAN PLAY. IN HIS FREQUENT EXPOSURES TO THE PRESS BEFORE AND DURING THE VISIT, HE REAFFIRMED TIME AND AGAIN HIS VISION OF A MOROCCO LOCATED, INTERALIA, IN THE GREATER MAGHREB, THE STRATEGIC MEDITERRANEAN, A PARIS-MADRID-RABAT AXIS, AND A RABAT-DAKAR-KINSHASA AXIS. LIKEWISE, HIS PROPOSAL (SINCE FOLLOWED UP HERE) FOR UN INSPECTION OF MOROCCO'S PLANNED NUCLEAR REACTOR SEEMS IN PART DESIGNED TO ATTRACT INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TO MOROCCO'S INCIPIENT TECHNOLOGICAL MODERNIZATION.

4. ON THE INTERNAL SIDE, WHILE SOME SOPHISTICATED MOROCCANS WERE A LITTLE NERVOUS ABOUT HIS VERBAL EFFUSIVENESS AND OCCASIONAL DISTORTIONS, THE CONSTANT SIGHT OF THEIR MONARCH TET-A-TETING WITH THE FRENCH PRESIDENT COULD NOT HELP BUT IMPART A SENSE OF PRIDE; THUS THE TRIP WAS A LARGE PLUS FOR HIM AT HOME. COMING AT A TIME OF SOME OPENING ON THE INTERNAL POLITICAL FRONT AND ON THE HEELS OF THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREEN MARCH, THE KING HAS CLEARLY EMERGED IN HIS STRONGEST INTERNAL POSITION SINCE 1970.

5. A FURTHER REFLECTION OF THIS CONFIDENCE IS THE KING'S TRAVEL PLANNING. HE HAS SAID BOTH IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE THAT HE EXPECTS TO DO A GREAT DEAL MORE TRAVELLING IN COMING MONTHS. PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED PROJECTED ITINERARIES INCLUDE SPAIN, THE US, AND SAUDI ARABIA.

6. SAHARA. THE KING CLEVERLY AVOIDED EMBARRASSING FRANCE ON THE SAHARA AND WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO EXPRESS UNDERSTANDING OF THE FRENCH POSITION, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME TWEAKING ALGERIA BY STATING THAT HE KNEW FRENCHMEN, "IN THEIR HEARTS", WERE PARTIAL TO MOROCCO. HE ALSO CHARGED THE POLISARIO WITH ATTEMPTING TO UNTRACK THE VISIT BY FORCING THE FRENCH INTO A COMPROMISING SITUATION OVER THE RELEASE OF TWO CAPTURED FRENCH COOPERANTS. FOR THEIR PART, THE FRENCH DEMONSTRATED ADROITLY THEIR ABILITY TO DEAL INTIMATELY WITH ONE PARTY TO THE SAHARA DISPUTE APPARENTLY WITHOUT UNDUE HARM TO THEIR RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA.

7. WHAT DID THE MOROCCANS OBTAIN? THE KING AND GISCARD HAD AT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 RABAT 06679 141013Z

LEAST FOUR PRIVATE MEETINGS, AND WE ARE TOLD THAT NO ONE ELSE WAS PRESENT. THUS, THERE IS LITTLE SOLID TO GO ON. A MOROCCAN OFFICIAL HAS CONFIDED THAT THE COMMUNIQUE WAS KEPT VAGUE AND SHORT BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT. IF ONE IS TO BELIEVE THE LOCAL PRESS, HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED IN A SUBSTANTIVE MANNER:

A) NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR MOROCCO. (SEE OUR SEPARATE

REPORTING ON THIS SUBJECT).

B) FRENCH FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN THE STEEL COMPLEX AT NADOR.

C) FRENCH FINANCING FOR MAROC-PHOSPHATE II.

D) FRENCH ASSISTANCE IN EXPANDING THE MOROCCAN TV SYSTEM. (MOROCCO HAS OPTED IN PRINCIPLE FOR SECAM BUT HAS MOVED SLOWLY, GUARDING OPTION TO SWITCH TO PAL).

E) IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF FRENCH COOPERANTS.

F) NEW GUARANTEES FOR MOROCCAN WORKERS IN FRANCE.

G) FRENCH MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AT LEAST ACCORDING TO THE KING AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE (AND IN SPITE OF DENIAL BY FRENCH PRESS SPOKESAMN THAT THE KING AND GISCARD HAD DISCUSSED THE QUESTION).

H) SOME KING OF FRENCH AGREEMENT TO WORK TO OFFSET THE TRADE IMBALANCE BETWEEN THE TWO.

8. THE FOREGOING REFLECT SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC ELEMENTS OF THE VISIT, ALTHOUGH THE ACTUAL TURNING POINT IN FRENCH-MOROCCAN BILATERAL RELATIONS OCCURRED DURING GISCARD'S MAY 1975 VISIT HERE (75 RABAT 2198). ALL LONGSTANDING CONTENTIOUS ISAUES WERE SETTLED ON THAT OCCASION, PARTICULARLY THE STICKY QUESTION OF FORMER FRENCH PROPERTIES. THIS LATEST VISIT, IN ESSENCE, WAS FROSTING, ALBEIT SIGNIFICANT FROSTING.

9. FOR THE US, THE SIGNIFICANCE APPEARS TO US TO BE A STRENGTHENING OF MOROCCO'S TIES WITH THE WEST. THE VISIT PROVIDED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 RABAT 06679 141013Z

A VIVID AND HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL REAFFIRMATION OF THE REALITY THAT MOROCCO IS INTIMATELY LINKED TO THE FORMER METROPOLE. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT THIS RELATIONSHIP HAS OCCURRED -- OR WILL PERFORCE DEVELOP -- AT THE EXPENSE OF THE US. ON THE CONTRARY, WE ARE ALREADY BUILDING UP CLOSER POLITICAL AND MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS, AND IN ECONOMIC MATTERS ARE EXPERIENCING AN INCREASINGLY OPEN DOOR. THE OVERALL PERCENTAGE OF THE MOROCCAN MARKET WHICH THE FRENCH DOMINATE HAS STEADILY DIMINISHED SINCE INDEPENDENCE. THE EXPANDING ECONOMY AND THE GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE, EXPRESSED FREQUENTLY AND ADAMANTLY AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS, WILL CONTINUE TO PRESENT THE US PRIVATE SECTOR WITH IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITIES TO DO BUSINESS HERE.
ANDERSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976RABAT06679
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760460-0238
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761244/aaaabmbh.tel
Line Count: 167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 RABAT 6266, 76 RABAT 6352, 76 RABAT 6394, 76 PARIS 35602
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KING HASSAN'S NOV. 22-25 VISIT TO FRANCE
TAGS: PFOR, MO, FR, (HASSAN II)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006